

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6139

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10311

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PROPOSAL FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT

REF: TEHRAN 6132

1. SCIATT LEARNED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF IRI, FINMECCANICA AND FINSIDER VISITED IRAN TO SUPPORT FRENCH BID TO BUILD FIVE NUCLEAR PLANTS IN IRAN. SINCE THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN IRAN AND FRANCE WERE SIMPLY DECLARATIONS OF PRINCIPLES, PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION IS SOME YEARS AWAY. FINSIDER, THEREFORE ATTEMPTED, BASED UPON ONE OF ITS DIVISIONS (ITALEMEANTE) EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN PTETROCHEMICAL PLANT FABRICATION, TO SOUND OUT THE SHAH ON IRANIAN VIEWS ON THEIR DEVELOPING WITH BECHTEL OF THE US AN IRANIAN NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT FACILITY AT SAIRE BECAUSE OF ZAIRE'S EXTENSIVE URANIUM DEPOSITS AND AVAILABLE HYDROELECTRIC POWER.

2. FOR SOME TIME JEAN VAN DER SPEK, PRESIDENT OF SYNDICAT D'ETUDE DE L'INDUSTRIE ATOMIQUE HAS BEEN ADVOCATING CONSTRUCTION WITH THE US OF A URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT WHICH WOULD USE POWER FROM THE INGA HYDROELECTRIC COMPLEX IN ZAIRE. THE POSITION OF THE AEC HAS INDICATED TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE USE OF US TECHNOLOGY IF MR. VAN DER SPEK WERE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE REPRESENTS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP, WHICH HE HAS NOT AS

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YET TO OUR KNOWLEDGE ACCOMPLISHED.

3. ON FEB. 21 IN ROME, TUPINI OF FINMECCANICA HOSTED A MEETING WITH DR. RUBIN OF AEC BRUSSELS, DRS. COOFARELLI AND D'AGOSTINI OF FINMECCANICA AND SCIATT TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPING AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE PROGRAM IN ZAIRE.

4. DR. RUBIN AS THE SENIOR REP REPEATED AEC'S POSITION THAT THE US WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IF IT COULD BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY REPRESENT AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL GROUP. SINCE THEY DID NOT, NO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD. VOLPE

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